

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 23, as follows:

For the purposes of the invention, an antioxidant is one or more compounds which is (are) suitable for inhibiting the autoxidation of polyether alcohols. Antioxidants for the purposes of the invention are therefore free-radical scavengers and/or peroxide decomposers and/or metal ion deactivators. These are typically compounds which are used for increasing the storage stability of polyether alcohols. The antioxidant is preferably an organic compound. In addition, the antioxidants for the purposes of the invention are compounds which are suitable for the DMC-catalyzed synthesis of polyethers. Suitable antioxidants for the purposes of the invention are one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of

- (i) sterically hindered phenols and/or
- (ii) N,N-disubstituted hydroxylamine and/or
- (iii) cyclic amines and/or
- (iv) diarylamines and/or
- (v) organic phosphites and phosphonites, and/or organic phosphonic acid derivatives, and/or
- (vi) N,N-substituted hydrazine compounds and amide compounds of oxalic acid and/or
- (vii) lactones and/or
- (viii) benzofurans.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 31, as follows:

The antioxidant can be used in an amount of from 7 to 4000 ppm per compound, preferably 10 to 4000 ppm per compound, more preferably from 20 to 3000 ppm per

compound, based on the mass of polyether alcohol to be prepared. The antioxidant is used in a total amount which is greater than that of the DMC catalyst, with the term “amount” referring to the mass of the catalyst. Preference is given to a mass ratio of antioxidant to DMC catalyst of greater than 1, based on the mass of the catalyst used. Preference is given to using an amount of antioxidant which is at least 1.5 times, more preferably from 1.5 to 1000 times, most preferably from 2 to 500 times, the mass of catalyst used.